

# MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY



## **FAITH TO STORM THE GATES (Part 2)**

Read Mark 9:21-24 (NLT)

*“How long has this been happening?”* Jesus asked the boy’s father. He replied, “Since he was a little boy. The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can.”  
*“What do you mean, ‘If I can?’”* Jesus asked. *“Anything is possible if a person believes.”* The father instantly cried out, “I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!”

In last month’s study we discovered how true commitment looked with past armies. The real test came when their king decided the gates should be stormed. For us as believers and followers of Jesus, we can find a parallel in our commitment when Jesus asks us to reach into the darkest of places; places that can be said are hell on earth.

When we do this, we really are storming the gates of hell. But, remember that those gates are heavily defended. In other words, if you are storming the gates of hell, you are going in where satan has the most to lose and works the hardest to destroy you and/or your witness.

In Mark 9, we see the story of a father who brings his son possessed by a demon to Jesus. This father is so desperate that when Jesus tells him he must \_\_\_\_\_, he immediately shouts I \_\_\_\_\_. Help me in my \_\_\_\_\_.

- How can you believe and need help with unbelief?
- How is your desire to seek God impacted by your belief?
- Can you desperately desire God and recognize that your faith is not what it should be?
- What does Mark 9:21-24 say to you about this?

Believing is Faith.

Read Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT)

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge cloud of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.”

- What two things are we instructed to do to live a life of faith?
- Strip off \_\_\_\_\_ that slows us down.
- Keep our \_\_\_\_\_.

Take a few minutes and talk about things that can slow you down or trip you up. Some are obvious, but what are some things that seem simple but could hinder keeping your eyes on Jesus?